

App. No. 09/788,331

Amendment under 37 CFR §1.111

REMARKS

Claims 3, 5-15, 18, 20, 22, 24-54, and 59-60 are currently pending in the application. In response to Examiner rejections and objections: Claims 55-58 have been cancelled, and Claims 11, 51, 59, and 60 have been amended. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Acceptance of the drawings filed on 02/16/2001 is hereby acknowledged.

Allowance of Claims 3, 5-10, 12-15, 18, 20, 22, 24-50, and 52-54, and the reasons given therefor, are hereby acknowledged.

Claims 11 and 51 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over any of Kuwata-Gonokami (Opt. Lett. - Oct 1995), Frolov 1 (Appl. Phys. Lett. - April 1998), and Frolov 2 (Appl. Phys. Lett. - June 1998). Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 11 and 51, as amended, patentably distinguish over Kuwata-Gonokami, Frolov 1, and Frolov 2, for the following reasons.

Examiner has stated in the previous Office Action (dated 07/30/2003) that among the reasons for allowability of other claims in the application is the inclusion of an evanescently-coupled optical element. In the current Office Action Examiner states that "the 'additional evanescently-coupled optical element' mentioned ... in the previous Office action (in the statement of reasons for allowability) was not intended to refer to the transmission optical fiber line of which the fiber-ring resonator assembly is a part." Both of Claims 11 and 51, as amended, now include the recitation that the transmission optical waveguide is *assembled with* the fiber-ring resonator to establish evanescent optical coupling, explicitly precluding the possibility that the fiber-ring resonator assembly is part of the transmission optical waveguide. None of the cited references disclose, teach, or suggest a transmission optical waveguide assembled with the fiber-ring resonator for evanescent optical coupling. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that rejection of Claims 11 and 51, as amended herein, under 35 USC §103 over these references is improper, and should be withdrawn.

Claims 55-58 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Ho (US6009115). The rejection is obviated, since Claims 55-58 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 59 and 60 have each been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. The objection is overcome, since Claims 59 and 60 have been rewritten in

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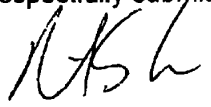
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independent form including all the limitations of the respective base claim (base Claim 56 for Claim 59; base Claim 58 for Claim 60).

In view of the above, it is submitted that Claims 11, 51, 59, and 60, as amended herein, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is respectfully requested. Applicants acknowledge allowance of Claims 3, 5-10, 12-15, 18, 20, 22, 24-50, and 52-54. Allowance of Claims 11, 51, 59, and 60 and issuance of a Notice of Allowance at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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